

1037. Proposed by George Apostolopoulos, Messolonghi, Greece.

Let P be a point inside the triangle ABC and let D, E, F be the projections of P on the sides BC, CA , and AB , respectively. Prove that

$$\frac{PA + PB + PC}{(EF \cdot FD \cdot DE)^{1/3}} \geq 2\sqrt{3}$$

Solution by Arkady Alt, San Jose, California, USA.

Let $R_a := PA, R_b := PB, R_c := PC$ and $a_p := EF, b_p := FD, c_p := DE$

(that is a_p, b_p, c_p are sidelengths of pedal triangle of point P). Then original inequality in the new notation becomes

$$(1) \quad \frac{R_a + R_b + R_c}{(a_p b_p c_p)^{1/3}} \geq 2\sqrt{3}$$

Since quadrilateral $FAEP$ is cyclic (because $PF \perp AB$ and $PE \perp AC$)

and R_a is diameter of circumcircle of quadrilateral $FAEP$

then $\frac{a_p}{R_a} = \sin A = \frac{a}{2R}$ and, similarly, $\frac{b_p}{R_b} = \sin B = \frac{b}{2R}, \frac{c_p}{R_c} = \sin C = \frac{c}{2R}$ and inequality

(1)

$$\text{can be rewritten as } \frac{R_a + R_b + R_c}{\left(\frac{aR_a}{2R} \cdot \frac{bR_b}{2R} \cdot \frac{cR_c}{2R}\right)^{1/3}} \geq 2\sqrt{3} \Leftrightarrow \frac{2R(R_a + R_b + R_c)}{(aR_a \cdot bR_b \cdot cR_c)^{1/3}} \geq 2\sqrt{3} \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\frac{R(R_a + R_b + R_c)}{\sqrt[3]{R_a R_b R_c}} \geq \sqrt{3} \sqrt[3]{abc} \Leftrightarrow \sum_{\text{cyc}} \sqrt[3]{\frac{R_a^2}{R_b R_c}} \geq \frac{\sqrt{3}}{R} \sqrt[3]{abc} \text{ or } \sum_{\text{cyc}} \sqrt[3]{\frac{R_a^2}{R_b R_c}} \geq \sqrt{3} \sqrt[3]{\frac{SR}{R^2}}.$$

$$\text{Or, inequality (1) can be rewritten as } \frac{R_a + R_b + R_c}{(R_a \sin A \cdot R_b \sin B \cdot R_c \sin C)^{1/3}} \geq 2\sqrt{3} \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\frac{R_a + R_b + R_c}{(R_a R_b R_c)^{1/3}} \geq 2\sqrt{3} (\sin A \sin B \cdot \sin C)^{1/3}.$$

$$\text{Since } \frac{R_a + R_b + R_c}{(R_a R_b R_c)^{1/3}} \geq 3 \text{ suffice to prove that } 3 \geq 2\sqrt{3} (\sin A \sin B \cdot \sin C)^{1/3} \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \geq (\sin A \sin B \cdot \sin C)^{1/3}.$$

We have $\frac{\sin A + \sin B + \sin C}{3} \leq \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$ (because for $\sin x$ which is concave down on $[0, \pi]$)

by Jensen's Inequality holds $\frac{\sin A + \sin B + \sin C}{3} \leq \sin \frac{A+B+C}{3} = \sin \frac{\pi}{3} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$)

and by AM-GM $(\sin A \sin B \cdot \sin C)^{1/3} \leq \frac{\sin A + \sin B + \sin C}{3}$.

(Another way to prove inequality $\sin A + \sin B + \sin C \leq \frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2}$.

First note that for any $x, y \in [0, \pi]$ holds inequality $\sin x + \sin y \leq 2 \sin \frac{x+y}{2}$.

Indeed, $\sin x + \sin y = 2 \sin \frac{x+y}{2} \cos \frac{x-y}{2} \leq 2 \sin \frac{x+y}{2}$ because

$$\frac{x+y}{2} \in [0, \pi] \text{ and } \frac{x-y}{2} \in [-\pi/2, \pi/2].$$

Using inequality $\sin x + \sin y \leq 2 \sin \frac{x+y}{2}$ we obtain

$$\sin A + \sin B + \sin C + \sin \frac{\pi}{3} \leq 2 \sin \frac{A+B}{2} + 2 \sin \frac{C + \frac{\pi}{3}}{2} \leq 4 \sin \frac{\frac{A+B}{2} + \frac{C + \frac{\pi}{3}}{2}}{2} =$$

$$4 \sin \frac{\pi + \frac{\pi}{3}}{4} = 4 \cdot \sin \frac{\pi}{3} = 2\sqrt{3} \Rightarrow \sin A + \sin B + \sin C \leq \frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2}.$$